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new EXCALIBUR



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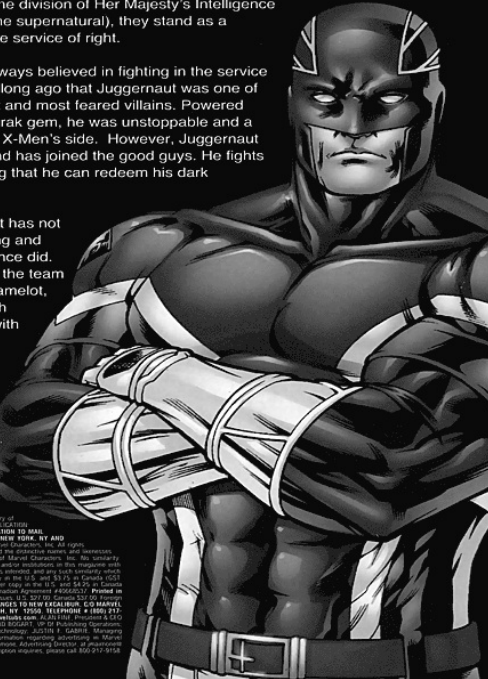
DIRECT EDITION

Previously in NEW EXCALIBUR:

In the aftermath of M-DAY, five disparate heroes are brought together in London: CAPTAIN BRITAIN, JUGGERNAUT, NOCTURNE, DAZZLER and SAGE. Together with government agent PETE WISDOM (an agent of MI-13, the division of Her Majesty's Intelligence Service devoted to the supernatural), they stand as a symbol of might in the service of right.

Juggernaut hasn't always believed in fighting in the service of right. It wasn't too long ago that Juggernaut was one of the X-Men's greatest and most feared villains. Powered by the mystical Cyttorak gem, he was unstoppable and a constant thorn in the X-Men's side. However, Juggernaut changed his ways and has joined the good guys. He fights the good fight, hoping that he can redeem his dark past.

Recently, Juggernaut has not been feeling as strong and unstoppable as he once did. During an adventure the team had in the days of Camelot, Juggernaut's strength failed him in a fight with a legion of dragons. What could be the cause of all this? Juggernaut is about to find out...



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UNREDEEMED

Part
1
of
3





MAN... WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO YOU, CAIN?

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THOR STOPPING
YOU, I COULD SEE, THE
HULK, MAYBE, AVENGERS,
X-MEN, FF...

...BUT US?
I MEAN, COME ON,
WE'RE THE WRECKING
CREW, FER CRYIN'
OUT LOUD!



HEY!

SHADDUP.
YOU KNOW WHAT
I MEAN.



TIME WAS
OL' CAIN HERE
WOULD WIFE
THE FLOOR WITH
US WITH AS MUCH
EFFORT AS IT
WOULD TAKE TO
TIE HIS OWN
SHOES.

BUT
AFTER
THIS PATHETIC
DISPLAY...
GEEZ...

HOW
EMBARRASSING.
HELL, I'M
EMBARRASSED
FOR YA.

GUESS HE'S GOTTA CHANGE
THE "UN" FROM "UNSTOPPABLE
JUGGERNAUT" TO "VERY,
HUH?"

HA! HA! HA! HA!



FACE THE FACTS,
BOSS. THE GUYS GONE
SOFT...WENT ALL HERO
ON US.

HE'S A
TRAITOR.





TELL ME
IT AIN'T SO.
CAIN. TELL ME
YA AIN'T SOLD
OUT.



COME ON,
BOSS. YOU'VE HEARD
THE STORIES. HEARD
WHAT RHINO'S BEEN
SAYING TO ANYONE
WHO'D LISTEN.

YEAH.
I HEARD.
COULDN'T
BRING MYSELF
TO ACTUALLY
BELIEVE IT.

UNTIL
NOW.



HELL,
I STILL
DON'T
WANNA
BELIEVE IT.
NOT YOU,
CAIN.

YOU WERE
ONE OF THE
GREAT ONES,
MAN.



ONE OF THE
GUYS WE COULD ALL
COUNT ON TO CLOBBER
IRON MAN OR PUT CAPTAIN
AMERICA IN HIS PLACE OR
EVEN GET THAT FRIGGIN'
SPIDER-MAN TO SHUT
UP FOR ONCE.

I HATE
SPIDER-
MAN.

EVERY-
BODY
HATES
SPIDER-
MAN.



AND I'LL
TELL YOU
WHAT I HEARD
THAT WAS
EVEN WORSE.
THEY SAID HE
TURNED IN
BLACK TOM!
CAN YOU
BELIEVE IT?

YOU GUYS WERE
MORE THAN BEST
FRIENDS...YOU WERE
LIKE BROTHERS.
HOW COULD YA
DO THAT?



A MAN TURNS HIS BEST
FRIEND IN LIKE THAT, HE'S
CAPABLE OF ANYTHING,
BOSS.

I SAY WE MAKE
AN EXAMPLE
OF HERO BOY
RIGHT HERE
AND NOW.

YEAH... START SHOWING
FOLKS WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN YOU SWITCH
SIDES.



SHADDUP! ALL OF YA, THE GUY'S A FRIEND OF MINE, OKAY?

LOOK, CAIN...

EVERYBODY ELSE HAS GIVEN UP ON YA. DELETED YOUR NAME OUT OF THEIR CELL PHONES AND CROSSED YA OFF THEIR CHRISTMAS-CARD LISTS.



SHOOT, BULLSEYE EVEN SAID HE'D WHACK HIM FOR FREE.

BULLSEYE WHACK SOMEBODY FOR FREE? Pfft. I'LL BELIEVE THAT WHEN I SEE IT.



MAYBE YOU'RE MIND-CONTROLLED... I DUNNO.

XAVIER, MAYBE...

HE DON'T LOOK MIND-CONTROLLED TO ME.



THEN MAYBE...

... MAYBE YA JUST GOT TIRED OF THE LIFE. IT HAPPENS TO ALL OF US, SOONER OR LATER.



YA KNOW... JUST PLAIN TIRED.

YA GET TIRED OF ALWAYS LIVIN' OUTTA RATTY MOTELS. OF NOT BEIN' ABLE TO EVEN EAT IN A FREAKIN' RESTAURANT 'CAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID SOMEBODY'LL RECOGNIZE YA. OF JUMPIN' EVERY TIME YA HEAR A DAMN SIREN.



THE HERO
LIFE? HEY, I
COULD SEE WHERE
THAT MIGHT BE
ATTRACTIVE.

BUT
IT AIN'T
YOU.



SO
LISTEN...

...WHY DON'T
YA PICK YERSELF
UP AN' WE HIT ONE
OF THESE PUBS OR
A STRIP JOINT OR
SOMETHIN' LIKE THE
OLD DAYS... TALK
THIS THING OUT.

WHAT
DO YA
SAY?



UH!



YA
WAS
RIGHT,
BOYS.

HE'S
ALL
YOURS.



THAT'S
WHAT I
SAY.



AN' DON'T
BE GENTLE
LIKE
BEFORE.





WE DON'T REALLY TAKE TOO KINDLY TO OUR TEAMMATES GETTING LITERALLY THROWN UNDER THE BUS."

UNLESS IT'S WISDOM.

OH, SURE... SCORE POINTS BY RAGGING ON THE ABRASIVE ENGLISHMAN.



TJ, THUNDERBALL'S ALL YOURS, DANE, YOU HANDLE THE--

OH, NO YOU DON'T. NOT THIS AGAIN.

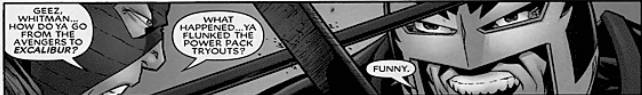


WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

GENTLEMEN... NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR THIS...











CAIN, YOU OKAY, DUDE?

I'M FINE...



...ALISON.

ALISON?



HE'S PROBABLY JUST A LITTLE, YOU KNOW... SHELL-SHOCKED.

YEAH... WHATEVER.



Uh-oh, now ya did it...

HUH?



No smurf action fer you. Not after ya colled her the wrong name, anyway.

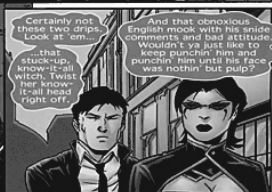
DAMN. NOT THIS AGAIN.

And don't give me that "Ya don't see her that way" crap. 'Cause ya'd have to be blind not to notice how she sees you.



CAIN... ARE YOU OKAY?

Sure, this is the one ya really want. The one that teases you.



HOURS LATER.

WORMWOOD
SCRUBS
PRISON.





TOM.

CAIN.

IT'S GOOD
TO SEE YOU,
BOYO. THOUGH
TO BE HONEST, I
DIDN'T THINK YE
EVER WANTED
TO SEE ME
AGAIN.

THERE'S A
PART OF ME
THAT STILL
DOESN'T.

CAN'T
SAY I
BLAME
YOU.



WHAT
HAPPENED TO
YOUR FACE?

DOESN'T
REALLY
MATTER.

IF YE
SAY
SO.



OKAY,
THEN... SO WHAT
CAN I DO FOR
YE, LAD?

LOOK, TOM.
YOU... YOU'RE MY
BEST FRIEND.
MORE THAN THAT,
AND SOMEBODY
EVEN SAID IT
TODAY...



YOU'RE
MY
BROTHER,
MAN.

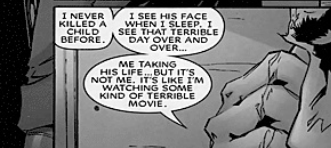
IT TOOK A WHILE, BUT I'VE
FORGIVEN YA FOR WHAT HAPPENED
WITH SAMMY. I KNOW YA, TOM... YA WEREN'T
IN YOUR RIGHT MIND, LIKE YA SAID.



LORD KNOWS YA DONE
ENOUGH BAD IN THIS
WORLD... BUT YA AIN'T GOT
SOMETHING LIKE THAT
IN YA.

NOT
LIKE...
WELL, YA
KNOW.

THAT BOY'S
DEATH IS A STAIN
ON MY SOUL.



I NEVER
KILLED A
CHILD
BEFORE.

I SEE HIS FACE
WHEN I SLEEP.
I SEE THAT TERRIBLE
DAY OVER AND
OVER...

ME TAKING
HIS LIFE... BUT IT'S
NOT ME. IT'S LIKE I'M
WATCHING SOME
KIND OF TERRIBLE
MOVIE.



AND I'LL
BE WATCHING
IT IN MY MIND
FOR THE REST OF
MY DAYS.

AND I'LL
HAVE TO
LIVE WITH
THAT.

BUT WE
BOTH KNOW
THAT'S NOT
WHY YOU'RE
HERE.

YA CAN'T
FOOL ME FOR
A SECOND, LAD.
I KNOW YE TOO
WELL.

YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE
YOU'RE HEARING THE
VOICES AGAIN...

... BECAUSE
YOU'RE GETTING
WEAKER AND
WEAKER EVERY DAY
AND YOU'RE
WONDERING IF IT'S
ALL WORTH IT.

WELL...
IS IT?

I'M AFRAID
I AIN'T GOT
THAT
ANSWER FOR
YE, BOYO.
THAT AIN'T
FOR MERE
MORTALS
LIKE ME TO
DECIDE.

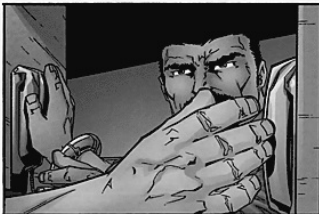
BUT IF YOU'RE
WONDERING WHAT I
THINK... WHETHER OR
NOT I THINK IF, AFTER
ALL YE'VE DONE, CAN
SOMEONE LIKE YOU
EVER TRULY BE
REDEEMED?

NO.

WE CAN PRETEND
THERE'S REDEMPTION
FOR THE THINGS WE'VE
DONE, LAD--BUT IS
THERE REALLY?

SAMMY'S
MOTHER--CAN
I EVER REDEEM
MYSELF IN HER
EYES?





GOOD LUCK, BOYO.

I WISH I HAD BETTER ANSWERS FOR YE.



I WISH I HAD BETTER ANSWERS FOR BOTH OF US.



Well, that was a grand waste of time.

SHUT.

THE HELL.



UP!!!



C'mon now, pal. Ya've been through this before.

Ya know there's only one way to do this, chief.



And only one place ya can go to do it.



WE
SHOULD'VE
NEVER LET HIM
LEAVE.



YOU'RE ALL ACTIN'
LIKE A BUNCH OF OLD
BIDDIES, WORRYIN'
OVER NOTHING.

CAIN
PROBABLY
JUST WANTED
TO CLEAR HIS
HEAD OVER THAT
WALLOPING HE
TOOK, THAT'S
ALL.



HOW DOES IT
FEEL TO ALWAYS
BE WRONG,
WISDOM?

I JUST
LOCATED HIM...
WANT TO KNOW
WHERE HE'S
HEADED?



KOREA.

AND MORE
THAN LIKELY, HIS
DESTINATION
WILL BE WHERE
THE JUGGERNAUT
WAS BORN...



"AND LORD
ONLY KNOWS
WHAT AWAITS
HIM THERE."



...to be
CONTINUED!



TEAM DCP

KURT_WAGNER AND KRYPTONIA
(*edits*) (scan)